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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/833,763	04/13/2001	Hiroshi Isono	109246	3912
25944	7590	05/23/2005	EXAMINER	
OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC P.O. BOX 19928 ALEXANDRIA, VA 22320			KING, BRADLEY T	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3683	

DATE MAILED: 05/23/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/833,763	ISONO, HIROSHI	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Bradley T King	3683	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 April 2005.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-36,42,43 and 45-48 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) 3-6 and 20 is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) 25-36,42 and 43 is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1,2,7,8,13,14,16,18,19,22,24,45 and 48 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) 9-12,15,17,21,23,46 and 47 is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 4/27/2005 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-2, 7-8, 13-14, 16, 18-19, 22, 24, 45 and 48 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by DE 197 16 404.

DE 197 16 404 discloses all the limitations of the instant claims including: a master cylinder 1 including a housing and at least two pressurizing pistons (4a, 6a) which are fluid-tightly and slidably fitted in the housing and which cooperate with the housing to define at least two pressurizing chambers (4, 6) which are isolated from each

other, and wherein a working fluid in each of the at least two pressurizing chambers is pressurized by an advancing movement of a corresponding one of the at least two pressurizing pistons, a hydraulically operable brake cylinder 3 for activating a brake, and a valve device (12, 25) having a first state in which the pressurized fluid is delivered from the two pressurizing chambers to the brake cylinder, and a second state in which the pressurized fluid is delivered from only one of the two chambers to the brake cylinder and the fluid is permitted to be discharged from the other of said two pressurizing chambers but none of the fluid discharged from the other of the two pressurizing chambers is permitted to be delivered to said brake cylinder. Note figure 3.

Regarding claim 13, valves 12, 21 or 22 also functions as a cut-off valves.

Regarding claim 22, assisting device 10 functions to boost pressure above that of the master cylinder.

Regarding claim 24, brake pressure control valve device 20 is disposed between the assisting device and the brake cylinder.

Regarding claim 48, see relief valve 31.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 25-36 and 42-43 are allowed.

Claims 9-12, 15, 17, 21, 23, and 46-47 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 4/27/2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Regarding DE 19716404, it is maintained the rejection is proper. Note the claim utilizes the open transitional phrase "comprising", and defines a "valve device" that has "a second state in which the pressurized fluid is delivered from only one of the two chambers to the brake cylinder and the fluid is permitted to be discharged from the other of said two pressurizing chambers but none of the fluid discharged from the other of the two pressurizing chambers is permitted to be delivered to said brake cylinder". In the second state of DE 197 16 404, the valve device (12, 25) does not permit fluid from chamber 6 to be delivered to the brake. The pump may allow fluid from chamber 6 to flow to the brake, but the pump is not being interpreted as part of the "valve device". Applicant's argues that the brake system allows fluid from the second chamber 6 to be delivered to the brake cylinder in either state, however it is noted that the claims only define the "valve device" by this function. It is maintained that in the second state, neither element of valve device (12, 25) allow fluid to be delivered to the brake cylinder. Element 12 in its closed position actively blocks passage of fluid through the primary brake line to the wheel cylinder. The additional bypass created by the pump is not being interpreted as part of the valve device and is further not precluded by the claim language due to the open transitional phrase.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Bradley T King whose telephone number is (571) 272-7117. The examiner can normally be reached on 11:00-7:30 M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Charles Marmor can be reached on (571) 272-7095. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

BTK

Robert A. Siconolfi 5/6/05
ROBERT A. SICONOLFI
PATENT EXAMINER